

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-10 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-05 /103 W

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R 130940Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9028

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 0777

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY RP

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN PRESS COMMENT ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

REF: FBIS OKINAWA 110436Z FEB 75

1. MALAY-LANGUAGE "BERITA HARIAN", WHICH NORMALLY REFLECTS GOVT LINE, HAD FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN EDITORIAL FEB. 13 ENTITLED "PROBLEM FOR MANILA ALONE": BEGIN QUOTE: PRES. MARCOS FACES A WEIGHTY PROBLEM INDEED IN HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT WITH MUSLIM GUERILLAS IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES BUT, HOWEVER DIFFICULT THE PROBLEM, A SOLUTION CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED IF CONCESSIONS ARE MADE BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION IN MANILA HAS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO AND CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS TROOPS IN ATTEMPTING TO END THE GUERILLA WAR AND RESTORE ORDER IN THAT AREA. PRES. MARCOS ANNOUNCED A CEASEFIRE LAST MONDAY (NOTE: SEE REFTEL)... BUT ON TUESDAY, THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE WAS STILL BOMBING THE

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MUSLIM REBELS. THE REBELS HAVE REASON TO CONTINUE THEIR WAR

AFTER MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENT, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT HEARD NEWS OF THE CEASEFIRE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE WITH ITS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUED ITS ATTACKS 24 HOURS AFTER PRES. MARCOS ANNOUNCED IT.

2. THE FAILURE OF THE JIDDA MEETING ALSO WAS BLAMED ON THE MUSLIM GUERILLAS, ESPECIALLY PRES. MARCOS HIMSELF WHO ACCUSED THE GUERILLAS OF STEPPING UP THEIR OPERATIONS WHILE THE TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS. BUT ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE INFORMATION, IT WAS THE GOVT ARMED FORCES THAT STEPPED UP THEIR OPERATIONS A WEEK BEFORE THE (JIDDA) MEETING AND THE GUERILLAS WHO ONLY FOUGHT BACK.

3. HOWEVER, PRES. MARCOS IS SEEKING TO RESUME THE (JIDDA) MEETING TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS BUT ALSO POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION, ALTHOUGH HE OPPOSES AUTONOMY WHICH IS FAVORED BY THE GUERILLAS. THIS IS A STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING PEACE AND IT WILL SUCCEED IF PURSUED SINCERELY AND NOT AS AN EXCUSE TO WEAKEN THE GUERILLAS' STRUGGLE.

4. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS IS AN INTERNAL PHILIPPINE PROBLEM AND THAT OUTSIDE FORCES CAN ONLY HELP IN LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION BUT THE TRUE EFFORT MUST BE MADE BY THE GOVT IN MANILA. MUSLIM NATIONS ARE READY TO HELP AND THAT IS WHY THE JIDDA MEETING WAS HELD. THE NATIONS WHICH ARE READY TO HELP IN ARRANGING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVT AND THE MUSLIM REBELS CANNOT BECOME TOO HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT LATER BE ACCUSED OF INTERFERING. THUS THE PRIMARY EFFORT MUST COME FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVT ITSELF. END QUOTE.

5. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT FILIPINO MUSLIMS ARE ENTITLED TO LIVE FREELY AND ENJOY THE PROSPERITY AND RIGHTS OF OTHER FILIPINOS, BUT THE CENTRAL GOVT MUST REALIZE THAT THE SOUTHERN REGION HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT.
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